



NUUSLETTER

The Newsletter of Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church
always available online at www.hvuuc.org

The mission of Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church is to promote spiritual growth, religious freedom, and ethical action.

May 2020

PO Box 8383 Johnson City, Tennessee 37615 (423) 477-7661

Headlines

- All in person Worship Services, Religious Education classes and other church activities have been suspended through May
- Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, May 3 at 12PM
- Kitchen of Hope May 4th
- The church is looking to hire a new pianist in May
- Online Game Group 2nd & 4th Saturdays at 7PM

Up to date church info is always available at www.hvuuc.org

Please Remember Your Pledge

Please continue your support of the church by completing your intended pledge for this fiscal year. We still have the mortgage, electric, internet/phone bills to pay. To honor our commitments all paid staff will continue to be paid during this time.

The best way to donate at this time is by check. Electronic donations are also possible, but they take a small percentage of each transaction, so the church will not receive your entire donation.

Mail to:
HVUUC
PO Box 8383
Gray, TN
37615

Write "pledge"
in the memo
line.

Thank you!



Upcoming Virtual Church Services

Virtual Church on YouTube

All of our services are available on our YouTube channel. The church services are available each Sunday at 11:00AM, but you can watch them anytime after that. You can also subscribe to our channel. Follow this link: [HVUUC YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

May 3 *New Times are a Comin'*, Rev. Jametta Alston
The pandemic has open new doors for all aspects of our lives. Are you ready? The train is a comin'. Get On Board.

May 10 *Mothers Day*, Rev. Jeff Briere
A letter to my mother.

May 17 *The Afterlives*, Rev. Jeff Briere
A service taken from the book, *Sum: 40 Tales of the Afterlives*.

May 24 *Memorial Day*, Rev. Jeff Briere
A service in which we remember and honor the people who died in the last year and who have made a difference in our lives.

May 31 *What? So What? Now What?*, Rev. Jeff Briere
Where do we go from here?

May 3 Guest Speaker Rev. Jametta Alston

In her previous life as an attorney, solicitor and then child advocate, Jametta focused on being a champion of civil rights and liberties. Now called to be a pastor, she continues her ministry of supporting all in their journey to discover the joy, excitement and love found in knowing God. She seeks to demonstrate that God is a God of love, understanding, acceptance and justice, thus she continues to the journey and invites each and everyone who wants to find joy in life and to seek justice for all to join her in this wondrous journey.

Rev. Alston is currently the assistant minister at Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church in Knoxville.

Annual Congregational Meeting—Sunday, May 3, 2020 12PM

This is a Zoom meeting. Please be on time or even a little early.

Topics to be covered at the meeting include:

- Approval of last year's meeting minutes. Link here [2019 Annual Meeting Minutes](#)
- Approval of the budget for the 2020-21 fiscal year. [2020-2010 Budget](#)
- Approval of the Board of Trustees and Nominating Committee slate for 2020-2021

Board Nominees:

Vice President—Ann Livengood

Treasurer—Deb Helmer

Facilities Trustee—Kris Monson

Membership Trustee—Michelle Markstrom-Frisch

Past President—Tom Burns

Nominating Committee:

Judy Tucker

Lee Sinnott

Continuing their Board terms (not being voted on)

President: Dana York, Secretary: William Kauffman, Programs Trustee: Wendy Hearl

Stewardship: Will Powell

Continuing their Nominating Committee terms (not being voted on) - Kim Ray, Wanda Earp, Mike Frisch

How to Zoom!

Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting, however only members may vote. To ensure we have quorum and to tally votes we need all voting members to register and attend the meeting **on their own device** (smartphone, computer, tablet). This means multiple members in a family need to register separately and on a separate device. Each participant should register in advance using this link:

[Annual Meeting—Zoom Registration](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. You will be muted when you enter and will not be able to unmute yourself. If you have a question or comment, please use the “raise hand” function (see below). You will be called on and unmuted in order of hand raises. If someone answers your question you can “lower” your hand.

Voting will happen via polls, which is why every voting member must register and attend on a separate device. Please answer each question AND hit ‘submit’ to vote. The results will be tabulated automatically.

If you are new to Zoom, please don’t wait until the last minute to check this out.

If you haven’t used Zoom before, you will need to download the Zoom app to your phone or computer . <https://zoom.us/> . Please do this! Once Zoom is installed, click the URL sent to your email after registering to head directly into the meeting.

- You might have to choose an “Audio Conference Option.”
- You can connect to video conferencing from a tablet or smart phone if using your computer is problematic.
- If your computer or device has working speakers and microphone, choose “Computer Audio” or “Device Audio.”
- If your computer or device does not have working speakers/microphone, choose “Phone Call,” pick the appropriate option, and use your phone to hear/talk.

Participating in a Zoom Meeting:

You might have to start video manually (video camera icon). You might have to join audio manually (headphones icon). Everyone will be muted when they enter the meeting.

Since this is a meeting with a large number of participants, the host will unmute participants when they have a question or something to say, it’s just like passing the microphone.

On some devices there will be viewing options, we recommend using “Speaker View” rather than “Gallery View” for this meeting. The symbol for this is a grid of nine squares in the (usually) upper right corner of the screen.

Raising Your Hand

To raise your hand, click on the three dots/”more” in the lower right corner of your screen. (You might have to move your mouse for them to show up). You can lower your hand the same way.

One last note on multiple devices in one physical room: Just don’t do it. The audio feedback is painful. Each member should attend on their own device, from physically separated spaces.

Do You Have Something to Say? Soapbox Sunday is July 5, 2020

Seeking individuals who have something to say, for our annual Soapbox Sunday service, July 5th, 2020.

"Soapbox Sunday" has become a tradition in many congregations. In this special service, members and friends exercise their right to free speech and "get up on their soapbox" to tell us something about which they are concerned or passionate. Topics can span a broad spectrum, as some past examples show: Palm Oil - Unintentional Harm to the Environment; Truth, Science, and Politics; The Power of Language; etc.

This service features five home-grown presentations, each one about 4 minutes each (400-500 words). Your service coordinators know that our youth probably have a LOT to say about the current state of our country and environment and their future, so we encourage young people to participate, as well. If public speaking puts you off, your coordinator can offer some help there, too, such as "interview style" if you'd prefer.

If you are interested or want to bounce a potential idea off a coordinator, please email soapboxsunday@hvuuc.org or reach out to Rosemary K.

Game Night: Online

The church Game Group has gone online! We are using Zoom and a website called Board Game Arena (BGA) to play board games and chat on the second and fourth Saturday evenings at 7pm. In our first get-together we even reconnected with a few church friends who had moved out of our area. Newcomers are very welcome to join! You'll just need to create a free account at BGA and have an internet- and webcam-enabled computer or laptop. If you are new to this online version, please contact Kirk in advance at gamegroup@hvuuc.org with interest and/or questions.

Prefer to play games at home, but need some new options? The game groups new Game Delivery Concierge Service is for you! Read about it here:

<https://hvuuc.org/congregation-news/2020/4/15/game-delivery-and-concierge-service>

Children's Choir

If your child would like to be involved with the children's choir led by Charis and Sue, please fill out the form on the website (link below) and click submit at the end.

The Children's Choir will debut their first virtual performance on May 31st, 2020!

Any questions can be emailed to childrenschoir@hvuuc.org.

[Children's Choir Registration Form](#)



Memorial Wall

Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church members and friends,

When we lose a member from our beloved community through death we honor their name and memory with our Memorial Wall. The Memorial Wall is located outside to the right of the sanctuary and includes the name, year of our friend's birth, and year of their death.

If you would like the name of someone in our community that has died to be added you can fill out the form found at [Memorial Wall](#). Member's names may be added based on their documented request or the request of their family member or community friend.

Former members and non-members names may be added with board approval based on their documented request or the request of their family or community friend.

There is no cost to request a name be added to the memorial wall; however, the cost of adding a name to the wall is about \$125.00. If you wish to donate to the Memorial Wall please write 'Memorial Wall Fund' in the 'memo' line of your next donation in our communities offering plate.

In gratitude of being among this community,
Dana York
Vice President
HVUUC Board of Trustees
May 1, 2020

Kitchen of Hope Monday, May 4

No volunteers are needed for Kitchen of Hope this month, but we are still serving meals.

The Kitchen of Hope is still serving meals to folks in need. In fact, the numbers have risen to 200+ a day. In an effort to keep volunteers and guests as safe as possible, the logistics have changed. Instead of a sit-down community meal, we now must serve to-go meals only, at the door, one at a time. We have adapted to this situation. And we, too, want to limit potential exposure for you.

Until things get back to normal, if you would like to help, please consider donating either money or food items that can go in a lunch bag. We serve once a month, but the Kitchen of Hope serves 6 nights a week.

Thanks for all you do! Our community is infinitely better for your caring and commitment!

To donate money: Mail a check to - HVUUC PO Box 8383, Gray, TN 37615 memo: Kitchen of Hope

Via Paypal - <https://hvuuc.squarespace.com/donate> also please indicate it is for Kitchen of Hope

To donate food items: Contact Kim at KOH@hvuuc.org

Website Member Log In

There is information on the website that you need to log in to see. Scroll to bottom of the home page and click on "Members Area". The password is the same one that you used on the old website. If you need the password, email office@hvuuc.org.

Once you log in, you can see a recent member directory, get a reimbursement form, see our tax exempt certificate, the board policies and procedures, and board meeting minutes.

Caring Team

The Caring Team coordinator for May is Joy Boyd. Contact at caring@hvuuc.org or 423-477-7661 Press 1.

Thank You to our April coordinators Phyllis Cairnes and Neva Kauffman!

Summer Camp Update



To our magical friends, As Headmistresses of Smoky Mountains School of Elements and Magic, we have been closely monitoring the input and suggestions of professionals on COVID-19. The health and safety of our students and staff are our primary concern and responsibility. Because of this, we have come to the conclusion that we must cancel camp for the summer of 2020.

While we will be unable to be together in person, please know that we are always together in heart and spirit. And, we will return more magical than ever in 2021!

Refunds for those who have registered and paid will be returned in full. If they cannot be returned via PayPal, then we will mail a check to you.

Please monitor the Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Facebook page for upcoming magical content!

We look forward to returning to camp with you all in 2021!

Be Well,
Headmistresses Selena Moonphase and Tora Caldwell

2019-2020 Board of Trustees

Larry Livengood	president@hvuuc.org
Dana York	vp@hvuuc.org
Spencer Conco	pastpresident@hvuuc.org
Brad Helmer	treasurer@hvuuc.org
Will Powell	stewardshiptrustee@hvuuc.org
Wendy Hearl	programs@hvuuc.org
Bryan Kleske	facilities@hvuuc.org
William Kauffman	boardsecretary@hvuuc.org
Tish Kashdan	membership@hvuuc.org

Minister: Rev. Jeff Briere: 477-7661 (office)
minister@hvuuc.org

Director of Religious Education:
Sarah White DRE@hvuuc.org

Choral Director
Kate Briere choir@hvuuc.org

Church Secretary
Karyn Cross office@hvuuc.org

Submissions for each month's newsletter are due by the last day of month to newsletter@hvuuc.org. Up to date information can always be found at www.hvuuc.org